

Why We Need SB 316

Testimony by:
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Due to the fact my son's medication quit working while in the community he was sent back to Montana State Hospital. His parole revoked. My son had been at Montana State Hospital (MSH) since November 2011. The Doctor was trying to stabilize him. December 2011 an incident occurred at the Montana State Hospital Forensic Unit. That morning the Doctor switch his medication trying to get his psychosis and delusions under control. Within 24 hours he was sent to prison.

During his stay at Montana State Prison I've seen my son spend over a year (months) in isolation, coming out of it looking like a prisoner of war, extreme weight loss, and delusional, and hearing voices. Costing our family over \$65,000 of hard earned life savings, trying to get him back to the State hospital before he died and rotted in an isolation cell at the prison with no mental health treatment.

I still have Warden Kirkegard cell phone message he left on my cell phone, dating back March 7, 2012, quoting him " I'm aware of your son, and it is our goal to get him back to Montana State Hospital as soon as he they can", in addition quote Warden Kirkegard stated "we will do everything we can to get him back down there (MSH), we're taking good care of him," "he shares my concerns and this is not the place for him (my son)".

It took two (2) years for that to happen - January 2014, 2 years of untreated mental illness, 2 years of permanent damage to his brain.

By the time the Judge order him back to the hospital the damage to everyone had been done (my son, the prison - staff and inmates, hospital staff, the State, the hospital, family, and communities (see lawsuit - reference - U.S. District Court - For the District of Montana - Butte Division - Civil No. CV-14-25-BU-SEH Disability Rights Mt, Inc., vs. numerous State agency staff)) - he was a vegetable of mush.

When he first arrived back at the hospital, a mental health staff who had known him from previous visits came up to me and said, "I've never seen him this ill, in fact, I've never seen anyone this ill that had come to the hospital, and this staff person who had worked on the forensic wing at one time, had been there for at least 3 years.

What the Warden and possibly other State officials did not realize is there is no way for the Warden to get him back based on the law.

This is why we are here today to make sure others like my son do not end up in a prison isolation cell. I ask please pass SB 316. Thank you for your consideration. Patti Jacques